

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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R 040420Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3423
INFO USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY MANILA
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 2547

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TW, US, CH,UR
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER DENIES SUGGESTIONS IT IS ROC POLICY TO
ATTACK THE MAINLAND AND COOPERATE WITH THE USSR

1. FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN CHANG-HUAN HAS PUBLICLY DENIED
LOCAL PRESS SUGGESTIONS THAT THE ROC MIGHT COOPERATE WITH
THE USSR AND LAUNCH A PREVENTIVE COUNTERATTACK AGAINST
THE MAINLAND IF THE US RECOGNIZES THE PRC. ANSWERING A WRITTEN
QUESTION AT AN OPEN SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN FOREIGN
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON APRIL 30, SHEN REPORTEDLY SAID
THAT RECENT ARTICLES DID NOT REPEAT NOT REPRESENT GROC POLICY,
NOR WERE THEY ANY "GESTUE" (TZU T'AI) BY THE GOVERNMENT.

2. BOTH ARTICLES IN QUESTION APPEARED IN THE LOCAL ENGLISH
LANGUAGE PRESS. ON APRIL 22, THE CHINA NEWS, WHICH
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WE SUSPECT HAS CLOSE LINKS WITH THE GROC, RAN AN
EDITORIAL WARNING THE US THAT, IN THE EVENT THE US
RECOGNIZES PEKING, THE GORC SHOULD RESERVE ALL ITS
"OPTIONS," INCLUDING, "AMONG OTHERS, THE DEVELOPMENT
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, POSSIBLE COOPERATION WITH THOSE
WHO OPPOSE THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS AND PREVENTIVE
COUNTERATTACK AGAINST THE CHINESE MAINLAND." (NOTE:

ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SHEN DID NOT EXPLICITLY ADDRESS THE NUCLEAR ISSUE IN HIS ANSWER TO THE LEGISLATOR' QUESTION.) IN THE FEBRUARY 1977 ISSUE OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION OFFICE'S "FREE CHINA REVIEW," AN ARTICLE BY ONE TS'AI CH'ING-YUAN ARUGES THAT "IF THE US TIE WERE TERMINATED," THE GROG WOULD NO LONGER FEEL OBLIGED TO THE US NOT TO ATTEMPT THE "LIBERATION" OF THE MAINLAND, AND THAT "WHILE THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA WOULD NOT LOOK TO SOVIET UNION (SIC),THE USSR WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY LOOK TO TAIWAN AND TRY TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS." THE GIST OF THIS ARTICLE WAS REPORTED IN AN AP WIRE CARRIED BY THE CHINA NEWS ON APRIL 22.

3.COMMENT: WE ARE NOT IMPRESSED BY THIS SEMI-OFFICIAL BRAVADO AND CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT ATTACKING THE MAINLAND OR COOPERATING WITH THE SOVIETS ARE OPTIONS TAIWAN WOULD CONSIDER PURSUING ONLY IN A STATE OF UTTER INRRATIONAL DESPERATION WE CANNOT CURRENTLY ENVISION. HOWEVER, WE EXPECT THAT THE GROG, IN ITS PUBLIC CAMPAIGN AGAINST NORMALIZATION, WILL FIND IT INCREASINGLY IN ITS INTEREST TO RAISE THESE AND OTHER SIMILAR BUGAGOOS. THIS NOT ONLY ALLOWS IT TO CAUTION AMERICANS (THE RECENT ARTICLES WERE IN ENGLISH), IT ALSO GIVES THE GROG OCCASION TO ISSUE DENIALS TO INDICATE WHAT A FAITHFUL ALLY IT IS.
POPPL

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